

The President's Daily Brief

10 September 1969

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Top Secret

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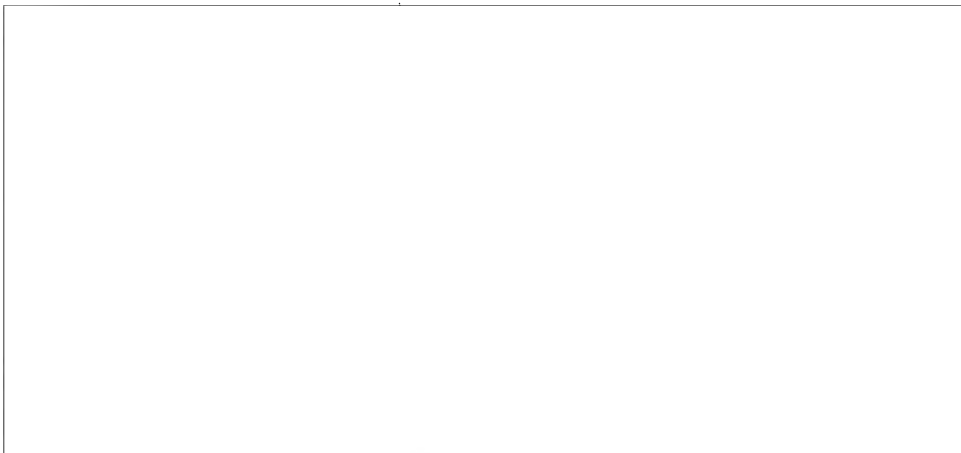
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VIETNAM

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Intercepted Communist messages indicate the enemy intends to resume widespread offensive action after the 72-hour stand-down ends this evening. One message, for instance, directed a Communist unit in the DMZ area to "turn grief into combat action," and a North Vietnamese regiment in III Corps admonished its battalions to be "really sure" to resume operations "continuously in great numbers, and in all areas after the cease-fire."

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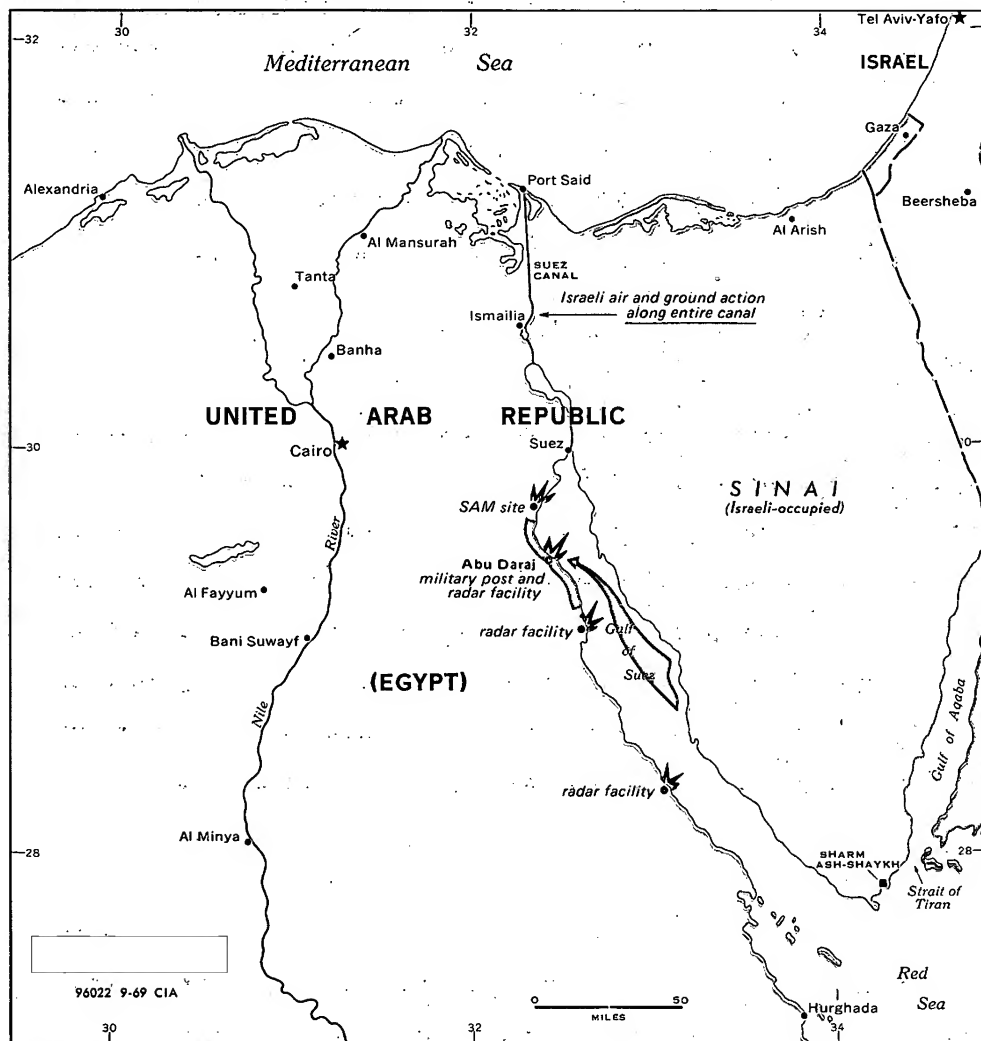


MIDDLE EAST

Israeli spokesmen are saying yesterday's large-scale raid was a riposte to repeated Egyptian aggressions along the Suez Canal. Its main purpose was to drive home to the Egyptians that two can play the game of violating the cease-fire line. Another, if unspoken, purpose of the raid may have been to ease domestic pressure in Israel, more than usually intense

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ISRAEL RAIDS EGYPT'S GULF COAST



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right now because of Syria's refusal to release the two Israeli passengers of the hijacked TWA plane and the recent rash of fedayeen bombings of Israeli installations in Europe.

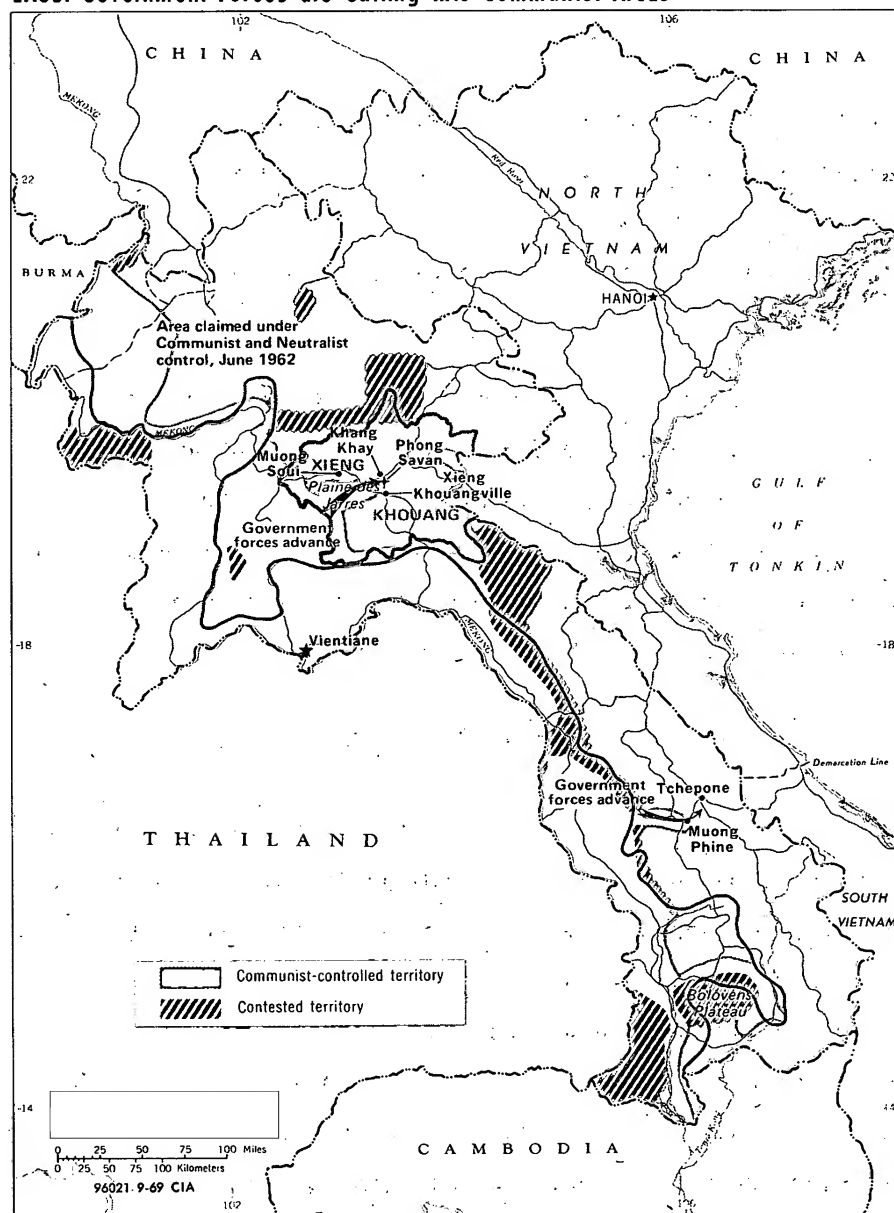
The Egyptians seem to have offered no significant resistance during the ten-hour operation. The attacking force landed near Abu Daraj, on the Gulf of Suez about 35 miles south of Port Suez, and pushed some 15 miles north and south with about a dozen tanks and armored personnel carriers. The Israelis also carried out extensive air strikes and support operations along the canal against military posts, radar installations, and an SA-2 SAM site along the coast of the Gulf of Suez. Israel claims to have killed more than 100 Egyptians and admits to the loss of one aircraft.

COMMUNIST CHINA

The army is clamping down on unruly factionalists in several provinces, intervening to break up armed conflict between rival groups and in some instances recovering large quantities of weapons. According to intercepted messages factionalists in most locations are fleeing to evade arrest and hiding their arms. We would expect, however, that troublemakers in some areas may still try forcibly to resist.

It is still too early to tell how far this particular drive will go. Earlier in the Cultural Revolution, during periods when Peking declared open season on the more obstreperous of the Red Guard groups, the army cracked heads with a vengeance.

LAOS: Government Forces are Cutting into Communist Areas

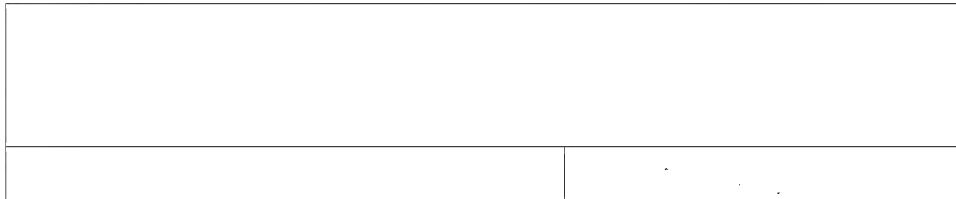


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BRAZIL

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LAOS

Vang Pao's troops are now occupying virtually all of the Plaine des Jarres. Advance elements are on the outskirts of Khang Khay, the military and administrative headquarters for Pathet Lao and dissident neutralist forces in Xieng Khouang Province. A guerrilla company has captured Phong Savan airfield. Because of their political sensitivity, Phong Savan and Khang Khay heretofore have been off limits to both air and ground assault.

Intercepts indicate that elements of at least four North Vietnamese regiments are still in the vicinity of the Plaine, but Communist intentions remain unclear. Refugees have said that Pathet Lao troops are pulling out of the Khang Khay area, and the town itself may fall to guerrillas by default. Vang Pao has also deployed three battalions south of the Plaine to retake Xieng Khouangville.

In the south, guerrilla troops have occupied Muong Phine, a town long held by the Communists on the edge of the infiltration corridor. The guerrillas apparently hope to push eastward into the Tchepone area, a key North Vietnamese logistic

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and command center. The capture of Muong Phine is the government's deepest penetration into the supply corridor in several years.

Although bad weather may forestall immediate enemy moves, the Communists are almost certain to react sharply in both the north and the south. Such reaction would not only be designed to erase recent government gains but probably would also hit at government strongholds from which offensives have been mounted.

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